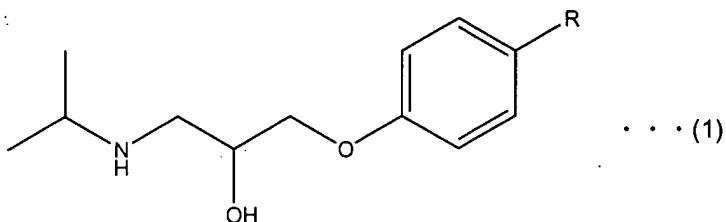


**REMARKS**

Claims 7-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 were previously cancelled. Claim 15 is amended in this paper.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of product claim 1 with regard to the pouch recited therein. In particular, claim 15 has been amended to require the support, the releasing layer, the specific adhesives and the multilayered structure of the patch as required by product claim 1. Claim 15 is directed to:

- "15. A method for inhibiting drug migration of a drug onto the inner surface of a pouch housing a patch comprising: storing, in the pouch, the patch comprising a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and a release film attached to the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, the adhesive layer containing the drug and being laminated on at least one side of a support, wherein the drug is a drug represented by general formula (1)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein R represents 2-isopropoxyethoxymethyl, carbamoylmethyl or 2-methoxyethyl, and wherein at least a portion of the inner surface of said pouch in contact with said patch is made of polyacrylonitrile."

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, including Examples 1 and 2 and Stability Test at page 14 to page 18 of the specification.

No new matter has been introduced to this application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132. Therefore, entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

***I. Restriction and Election Requirements***

The Examiner has required restriction, under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372, of claims 7-15 to one of the following two groups of claims:

Group I: Claims 7-14, drawn to a patch-containing pouch housing in its interior a patch which has a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer laminated on at least one side of a support and has a release film attached to said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, wherein said pressure-sensitive adhesive layer contains a drug represented by general formula (1) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least a portion of the inner surface of said pouch in contact with said patch is made of polyacrylonitrile; and

Group II: Claim 15, drawn to a method for inhibiting drug migration whereby migration of a drug onto the inner surface of a pouch housing a patch provided with a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer containing said drug is inhibited, wherein said drug is a drug represented by general formula (1) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least a portion of said inner surface is a surface made of polyacrylonitrile.

Further, the Examiner has required election of a single species for each of R and adhesives, as follows:

- R:
- A. R represents 2-isopropoxyethoxymethyl,
  - B. R represents carbamoylmethyl, and
  - C. R represents 2-methoxyethyl.

Adhesives:

- a. Acrylic-based pressure-sensitive adhesives containing a polymer including a (meth)acrylic acid ester as a monomer unit;
- b. Block copolymer-based pressure-sensitive adhesives containing a styrene-based block copolymer; and
- c. Pressure-sensitive adhesives comprising said acrylic-based

pressure-sensitive adhesive and said block copolymer-based pressure-sensitive adhesive.

***II. Provisional Election***

Responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect claims 7-14 (and 15) of Group I, drawn to a patch-containing pouch as described in claim 1.

Responsive to the election requirement, Applicants provisionally elect: "2-isopropoxyethoxymethyl" as a single species for each R; and "block copolymer-based pressure-sensitive adhesives containing a styrene-based block copolymer" as a single species of adhesive.

As requested, Applicants submit that claims 7-15 read upon both the elected 2-isopropoxyethoxymethyl and claims 7-15 also read upon the elected block copolymer-based pressure-sensitive adhesives.

Applicants note that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

Applicants respectfully request that method claim 15 be examined with claims 7-14 since claim 15 has been amended to include all of product elements that correspond to the claims of Group I.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the Amendment and elections, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to examine all of the claims and species pending in this application. If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss this matter, the Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned attorney.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,

**THE NATH LAW GROUP**

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